

Make the Move to Minnesota

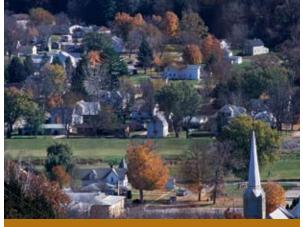


Minnesota is a great place to live, work and play. It's a state with good career opportunities, excellent education systems and health care, and exciting arts, entertainment and pro sports teams. It's known for its high quality of life and affordable cost of living. And the "Land of Lakes" is a beautiful place to call home, a land of pine and hardwood forests, rolling countryside dotted with barns, cities studded with parks and, of course, those nearly 12,000 lakes for which it is famous.

Minnesota has been one of the two most livable states nationwide in the last 12 years (1996 – 2007). The State Policy Reports considered such factors as economic performance, health, crime and education when it placed Minnesota seventh in its "2006 Camelot Index." And Forbes also rates Minnesota fourth in its "America's Most Generous States," based on income and donation of liquid assets. In fact, Minnesota always ranks at or near the top in quality-of-life ratings.

- At the center of the country's northern tier of states, Minnesota is easily accessible.
- Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport provides nonstop service to 131 domestic and international destinations.





Minnesota's People

Population:

5 million

Minneapolis-St. Paul

Twin Cities Area Population: 3 million 16th largest metropolitan area in the U.S.

Becoming More Diverse:

14 percent of Minnesotans are Black, Asian, American Indian, Hispanic/Latino, or other

Internet Resources

Try these sites for good information about Minnesota

www.state.mn.us

The official web site of the state of Minnesota, with links to dozens of other sites with a wealth of information on a variety of topics

www.positivelyminnesota.com

Information on doing business in Minnesota, community profiles and Minnesota data

[Department of Employment and Economic Development]

Evepartifient of Employment and Economic vevelopment

www.exploreminnesota.com

Extensive information about travel and recreation in Minnesota

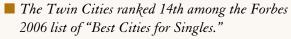
[Explore Minnesota Tourism]



home

In Minnesota, you can choose your hometown based on the lifestyle you want. If you thrive in the city with all of its cultural amenities, the Twin Cities area is the place for you. If you prefer life away from the bustle, telecommute from a lakeside home in the north woods. Or, choose a home and life somewhere between these two options, from urban to rural.

- Minnesota is one of the best states in the country in which to raise children, ranking fourth in the nation
 - in the 2006 Kids Count report.



- In 2006 Minnesota ranked fourth in the nation in home ownership, with a rate of 75.6 percent.
- Because of its extensive use of bike lanes, light rail and bus system, Minneapolis-St. Paul was named in 2007 the second cleanest city in U.S. and the fifth in the world by Forbes.

The Twin Cities Area

The Twin Cities area of Minneapolis-St. Paul offers big city living with all of its amenities, but easy access to the pleasures of Minnesota. Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine rates the Twin Cities area as the second best place to live in the United States, giving it very high ratings for education, leisure activities and affordability. The metropolitan area is also known nationally for its vast parks and trail systems, many of them encircling lakes or bordering the Mississippi River. The average commute to work is 20 minutes, there's an extensive bus system, and the first light-rail commuter line is operating.

Over the past 10 years, the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul have become thriving



residential neighborhoods, with high-rise apartments, hip warehouse lofts and attractive townhouses. City neighborhoods offer beautiful old homes close to parks, schools and jobs. The greater Twin Cities area encompasses a range of cities and several counties, with a widering of suburbs and small towns on the edge of the metropolis. Here you can find a range of housing and proximity to major employers on the loop of highways around the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Greater Minnesota

There are several other major cities in the state with a wide range of employers, good schools and medical facilities, excellent shopping and recreation, and cultural amenities such as orchestras and theaters. Duluth, Rochester, St. Cloud and the Moorhead area are all vital metropolitan centers, a great home for those looking for midsized cities. Numerous smaller cities around the state offer similar amenities. Many families enjoy the quieter pace of life in these communities, with their Main Street connections, friendly feel and the ease of "getting away from it all."

EXPLORE MINNESOTA LIVING

Mirnesota Works employment

Minnesota is a great place to find meaningful work and build a career. Its economy is one of the most diverse in the nation, with most types of major industries doing business in Minnesota. Quality jobs at good wages draw newcomers, and keep residents committed to their home state. In fact, some companies find that when employees transfer here, they never want to leave.

- Minnesotans earn a good living. Minnesota's per capita personal income ranks 12th in the country.
- Minnesota is the nation's "hardest working" state, with 74.6 percent of its residents participating in the state's labor force. Minnesota is known for its productive, motivated workforce with low rates of absenteeism.
- The state is among the nation's top five for economic performance, development capacity and business vitality in the 2007 development report by the Corporation for Enterprise Development, and ranked ninth in overall economic competitiveness in a 2006 Beacon Hill Institute report. In fact, many reports rate Minnesota highly in economic vitality.
- Minnesota companies are regularly cited as among the most family-oriented in America. Minnesota companies General Mills, Carlson Cos., and RSM McGladrey, Inc. are among Working Mother's "100 Best Companies" for 2006.



Some of the world's most recognized corporations make their home here, including 20 Fortune 500 companies. In addition to these "bigname" companies, Minnesota employers include thousands of smaller businesses across the state, health care organizations, educational institutions and many

innovative startup companies. Minnesotans have amassed the eighth highest number of patents per thousand residents. One study found Minnesota to rank seventh in technology jobs.

Minnesota products are found around the world. Exports range from agricultural commodities and processed foods to such high-tech products as heart valves and electronic controls.

With its diverse and resilient economy, Minnesota is a good place to plant roots and grow a career.



Fortune 500 Companies

Diversified Products

3M • Ecolab • Mosaic

Finance & Insurance

Ameriprise • Thrivent Financial • Travelers Companies
United Health Group • U.S. Bancorp

Food Products

General Mills • Hormel Foods
Land O'Lakes

Food Distribution

CHS • Nash Finch • Super Valu

Medical Equipment

Medtronic

Retail

Best Buy • Target Corporation

Transportation and Distribution

C.H. Robinson • Northwest Airlines

Utilities

Xcel Energy



Top Grades in Education

education



hether you want to continue your own education or plan for your children's future, you'll find that Minnesota is dedicated to educational excellence, from preschool to professional programs. Dozens of the state's public schools have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as "Blue Ribbon Schools" noted for their academic excellence.

Many educational innovations have been embraced in Minnesota. The state's open enrollment program allows public school students to attend schools outside of their own school district if they choose. Or, they can select special magnet schools that provide expanded opportunities in areas such as language, science or arts. High school students looking for a challenge may enroll in college courses tuition-free.

- Minnesota's population is well educated. Ninetythree percent have a high school diploma or higher, ranking first nationwide, and nearly 21 percent have earned bachelor's degrees or higher, the eighth highest in the nation.
- More than 90 percent of the state's residents are within a half-hour drive of a post-secondary institution.
- The University of Minnesota ranks eighth among public research universities in the country, and 11th in research and development spending, surpassing Harvard University and MIT. There are four U of M campuses, including its largest in the Twin Cities.
- The separate Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system has seven universities and 31 community and technical colleges located throughout the state. Minnesota is also home to 27 private colleges and universities.

A Great State of Ftealth

Minnesota consistently rates as one of the healthiest states in the country. One reason is the availability of high-quality health care. The Mayo Clinic in Rochester and the University of Minnesota are world renowned for their medical research, innovations and patient care. In fact, the Mayo Clinic is the second best hospital nationwide according to the *U.S. News and World Report*, 2006. In addition to the top-quality health clinics and hospitals available in the Twin Cities area, excellent medical facilities are located in cities throughout the state. Duluth, St. Cloud, Rochester and the Moorhead area serve as medical centers for their areas.

Insurance coverage also helps keep Minnesotans healthy; nearly 92 percent are covered by health insurance, the highest percentage in the country.

■ Minnesotans' life expectancy (79.1 years) is the second highest in the nation.

health



5

■ Minnesota is the healthiest state in the nation, according to the United Health Foundation. In fact, the state has been among the top two states since 1990.

EXPLORE MINNESOTA LIVING

Let Minnesota Entertain You

entertainment



It's easy to find something fun to do in Minnesota. The hard part is fitting it all in. The plethora of exciting things to see and do has made tourism a major business in this state.

- Mall of America, the country's largest shopping and entertainment complex, draws visitors from around the world.
- The Science Museum of Minnesota, the Minnesota Zoo, the Minnesota Children's Museum, and Valleyfair amusement park are all big with families.



Home teams to cheer for: Twins baseball, Vikings football, Wild hockey, and Timberwolves and Lynx basketball. And the University of Minnesota teams have an avid following.

The Arts Scene

Minnesota arts will entertain and enlighten you. Its vibrant arts environment is one of the reasons Minnesota is often cited as a "most livable" state. A Carnegie Mellon University report ranked Minnesota

among the top 10 on the "Bohemian Index" for its concentration of creative people.

Two excellent professional orchestras, several exciting dance companies, a fine opera company and several art museums help make the Twin Cities the cultural center of the Upper Midwest.

Minneapolis was named one of the "Top Five International Hot Spots" for 2006 by *Travel and Leisure*. Of particular interest are the new, blue Guthrie Theater on the Mississippi River Front, the Minneaspolis Institute of Arts, the Children's Theater Company and the newly expanded Walker Art Center. These and other stunning buildings earned Minneapolis the title of "Design City" by *Newsweek* in 2006.

Duluth, Rochester, St. Cloud, and the Moorhead area all have orchestras, theater companies, art museums and galleries. Even smaller towns are artistically rich. The villages of Lanesboro and Grand Marais were both named among the "Top 100 Art Towns" in America.

Minnesota stages spotlight concerts by the top performers in the country. The Twin Cities music scene includes jazz and blues clubs, along with a wide selection of nightclubs that bill rock, country and progressive bands. The WE Country Music Fest in Detroit Lakes and the Bayfront Blues Festival in Duluth are two of the biggest events of their kind in the country.



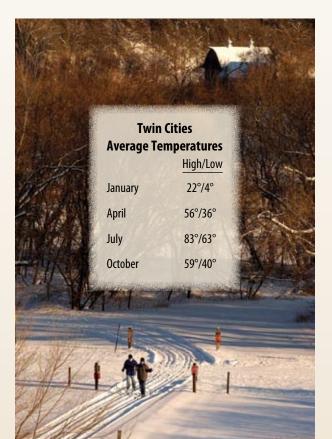
recreation

Ask Minnesotans what they like about living here, and they're sure to bring up Minnesota's beauty – its lakes and forests, its pastoral country scenes – and how easy it is to get out and enjoy nature. No city is far away from a walk in the woods, a beach by the lake, a spot to go fishing. And even in Minneapolis, the state's biggest city, you can find all of those things right in town.

The rugged North Shore of Lake Superior, the majestic Mississippi River and its headwaters, the pristine Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness – all draw visitors from afar. Thousands of lakes splash the countryside, and much of Minnesota is blanketed with forests.

For those who enjoy a more easy-going view of the great outdoors, there are 22 designated Minnesota Scenic Byways; six of these are also national byways. Fall brings a colorful display as trees turn orange, crimson and bronze. Fall color drives are an autumn tradition, and the weather is great for hiking, biking, golfing and fishing.

Minnesotans take full advantage of their fourth season. Winter enthusiasts take to the snow with zeal. Minnesota's winter playground offers beautiful





cross-country ski trails, 20,000 miles of snowmobile trails, cozy ice-fishing huts, and numerous downhill ski and snowboard areas, including the largest in the Midwest. Snowshoeing and dogsledding are other winter adventures. And there's always the simple fun of sledding down the neighborhood hill.

Not that we're on the go every second. One of the greatest outdoor pleasures is simply to relax under a canopy of trees and breathe in the fresh air, even from your own back yard. The "Land of Sky Blue Waters" will reel you in with its beauty alone.

Since the state is 400 miles long, temperatures vary from south to north, with slightly warmer temperatures south of the Twin Cities, and cooler temperatures in the northern parts of the state. About two-thirds of days have no measurable precipitation.

A Few Recreational Highlights:

- More than 480 golf courses, including many fashioned by top-name links designers. Minneapolis ranks first amoung cities with high population density in golf courses per 100,000 residents (1.9).
- Fishing for walleye, bass, northern pike, trout and a variety of panfish.
- More paved bike trails than any other state, running through scenic countryside along former railroad beds.
- Seventy-two beautiful state parks and four diverse national parks, plus a stretch of the seven-state North Country National Scenic Trail.
- Adventures like Lake Superior and whitewater kayaking, mountain biking and rock climbing.



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